



#26

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THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



MACKIE
ROMITA JR
HANNA

THE M A S K

YOU EVER LOOK
IN THE MIRROR...

...AND WONDER WHO
IT IS THAT IS STARING
BACK AT YOU?

I'VE BEEN DOING
THAT A LOT LATELY.

AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRICKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, BECAUSE HE LEARNED AN INVALUABLE LESSON: WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

HOWARD MACKIE

JOHN ROMITA JR.

SCOTT HANNA

STORY AND ART

GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS

RICHARD STARKINGS &
COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
LETTERS

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UNDERNEATH THIS MASK MY NAME IS PETER PARKER.

IN THE COSTUME I'M IN I GO BY THE NAME SPIDER-MAN.

THE WHOLE THING... COSTUMED IDENTITY... SUPER-VILLAINS... SAVING THE WORLD... SEEMS SO RIDICULOUS.

LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A COMIC BOOK.

BUT IT IS WHAT PASSES FOR MY REAL LIFE.

NORMAN OSBORN, THE GREEN GOBLIN, IS MY ARCH-NEMESIS. HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET TO USE THAT TERM IN A SENTENCE?

THIS IS HIS MASK I'M HOLDING IN MY HAND.

WELL... I THINK IT IS.

YOU SEE NORMAN IS THE KIND OF SUPER-VILLAIN WHO NOT ONLY WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD, BUT WANTS TO MAKE SURE HE SCREWS UP MY LIFE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WHILE DOING IT.

CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES I'VE WATCHED THAT GUY DIE.

SOMEHOW... HE ALWAYS COMES BACK TO MAKE MY LIFE A LIVING HELL.

THIS TIME AROUND... LAST WEEK IN REAL TIME... HE WAS WORKING ON THIS WHOLE DRUGGING SLASH MIND-CONTROL THING.

HAD ME MASQUERADING AS THE GREEN GOBLIN WITHOUT MY KNOWING ABOUT IT.

I DID A LOT OF STUFF I'M NOT PROUD OF. PUT A REAL SCARE TO A LOT OF PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.

THIS WAS ALL PART OF SOME CRAZY RIGHT-OUT-OF-STAR WARS IDEA NORMAN HAD ABOUT BRINGING ME OVER TO THE "DARK SIDE"... TURNING ME INTO HIS HEIR APPARENT.

THING IS, EVEN WITH MY HAVING BEATEN NORMAN AGAIN...

...IT'S HAD ME TURNED INSIDE OUT EVER SINCE.

HE TOUCHED ON A REAL TENDER SPOT OF MINE.

I NEVER REALLY KNEW MY REAL MOM AND DAD.

THEY WERE KILLED IN A PLANE CRASH WHEN I WAS JUST A KID.

GROWING UP, I COULDN'T ACCEPT THAT THEY COULD REALLY BE DEAD.

HOW COULD THEY BE?

HOW COULD I KNOW WHO I WAS IF I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM?

MY MEMORIES OF THEM ARE STILL SO FUZZY.

ESPECIALLY MY DAD.

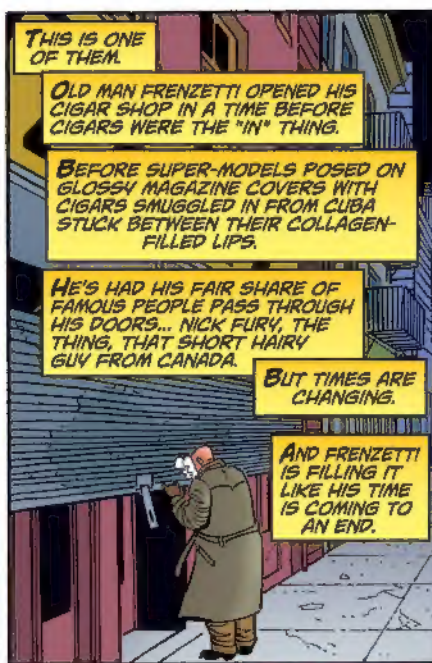
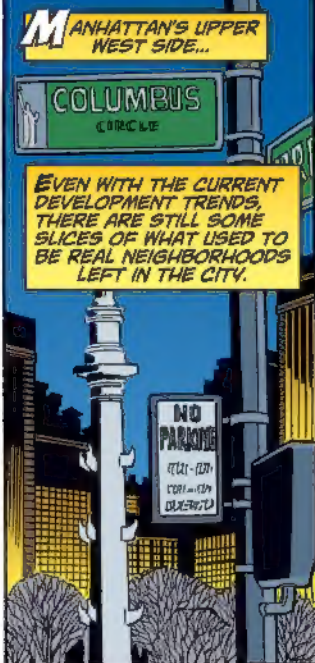
I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF I REMEMBER HIM AT ALL OR IF I'M JUST REMEMBERING THE STORIES AUNT MAY TOLD ME NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.

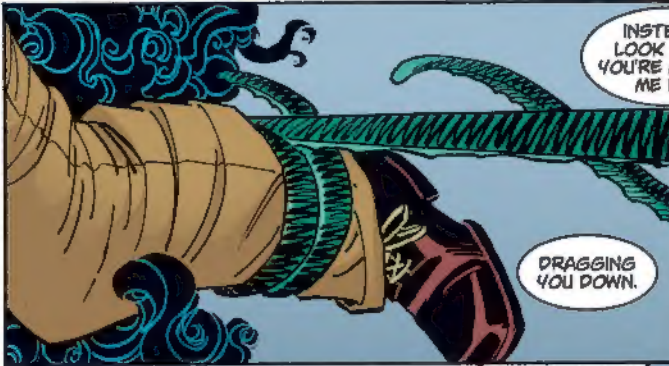
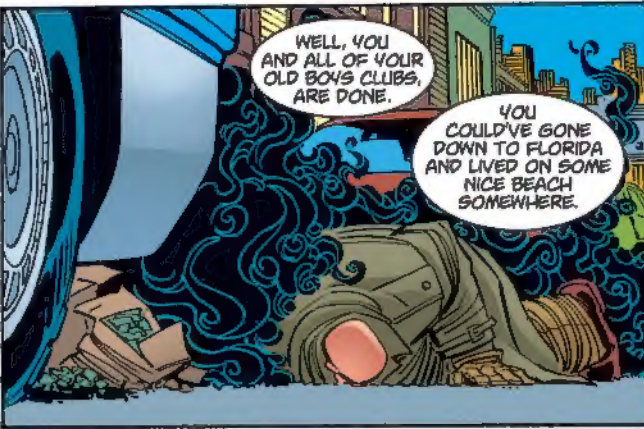
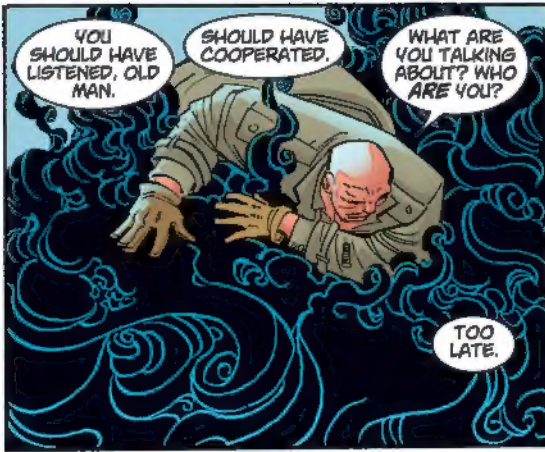
AFTER ALL THAT HAPPENED WITH NORMAN...

...AFTER ALL THE QUESTIONS HE RAISED...

...I'VE GOT TO KNOW.

I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM.





THE NEXT DAY IN FOREST HILLS, QUEENS...



OH, MY! LOOK HOW IT'S FADED.

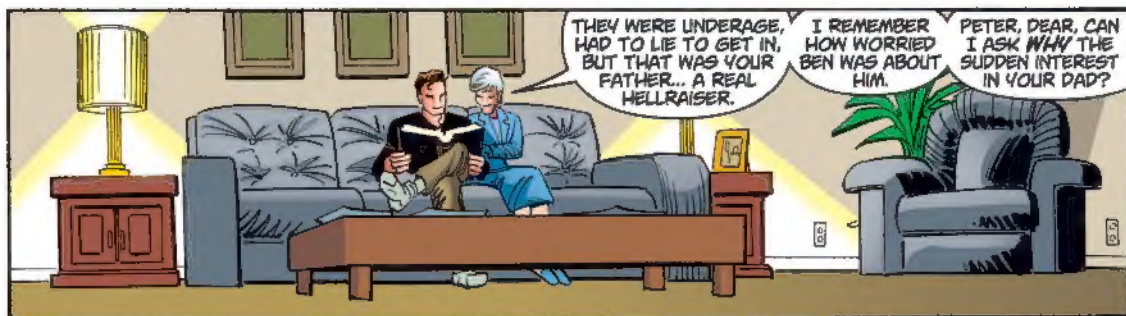
OH, THE YEARS HAVE JUST FLOWN BY, PETER.

I REMEMBER TAKING THIS PICTURE OF THE BOYS LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY.

DAD DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY TO BE HAVING HIS PICTURE TAKEN, AUNT MAY.

NEVER WAS MUCH OF A PREENER, THAT FATHER OF YOURS. WAS ALWAYS UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND THE CAMERA.

BUT HE DID IDOLIZE HIS BIG BROTHER BEN, THOUGH. THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS BEFORE YOUR FATHER AND HIS BUDDY, "BIG" MIKE CALLAHAN, ENTERED THE SERVICE.



THEY WERE UNDERAGE, HAD TO LIE TO GET IN, BUT THAT WAS YOUR FATHER... A REAL HELLRAISER.

I REMEMBER HOW WORRIED BEN WAS ABOUT HIM.

PETER, DEAR, CAN I ASK WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST IN YOUR DAD?



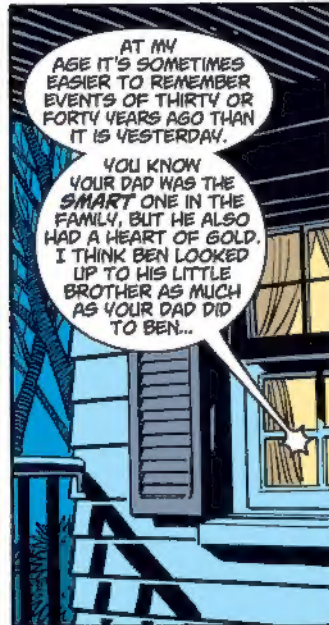
I WAS JUST REALIZING THAT I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER HIM ALL THAT MUCH. I WASN'T MUCH MORE THAN A BABY WHEN HE AND MOM LEFT. I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD PICTURE OF MY MOM IN MY MIND, BUT DAD...

...IT'S LIKE THE MEMORY IS FADING... JUST LIKE THE PICTURE.

CAN YOU TELL ME MORE, AUNT MAY? I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO KNOW HIM.



OF COURSE, DEAR. I'LL TELL YOU ALL I CAN REMEMBER.



AT MY AGE IT'S SOMETIMES EASIER TO REMEMBER EVENTS OF THIRTY OR FORTY YEARS AGO THAN IT IS YESTERDAY.

YOU KNOW YOUR DAD WAS THE SMART ONE IN THE FAMILY, BUT HE ALSO HAD A HEART OF GOLD. I THINK BEN LOOKED UP TO HIS LITTLE BROTHER AS MUCH AS YOUR DAD DID TO BEN...

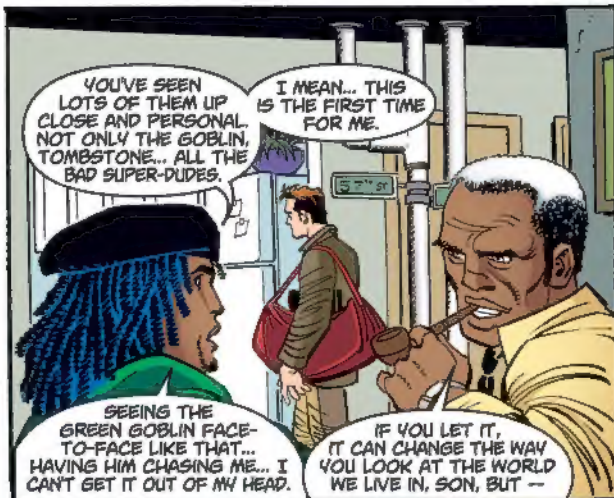
LATER THAT NIGHT...

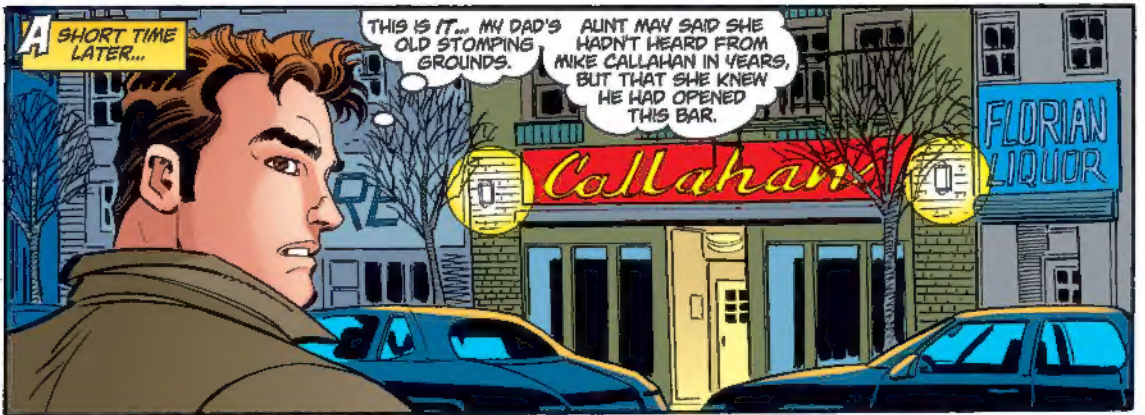
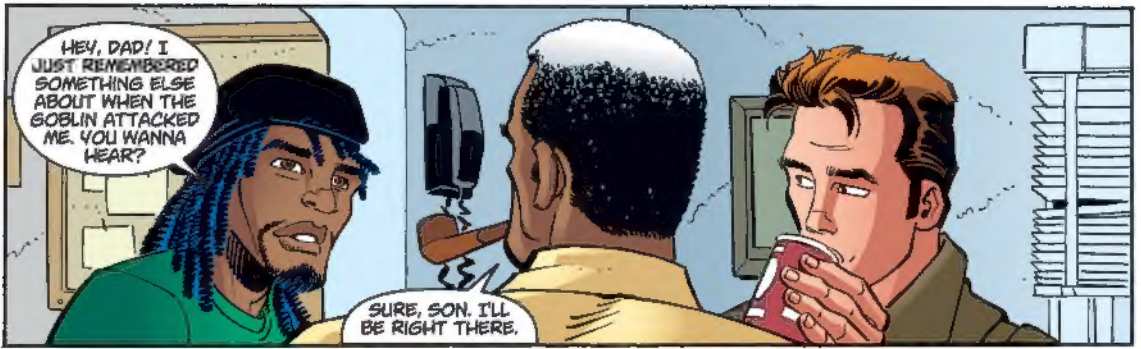
BOY! I NEVER HEARD EVEN HALF OF THOSE STORIES ABOUT MY DAD BEFORE.

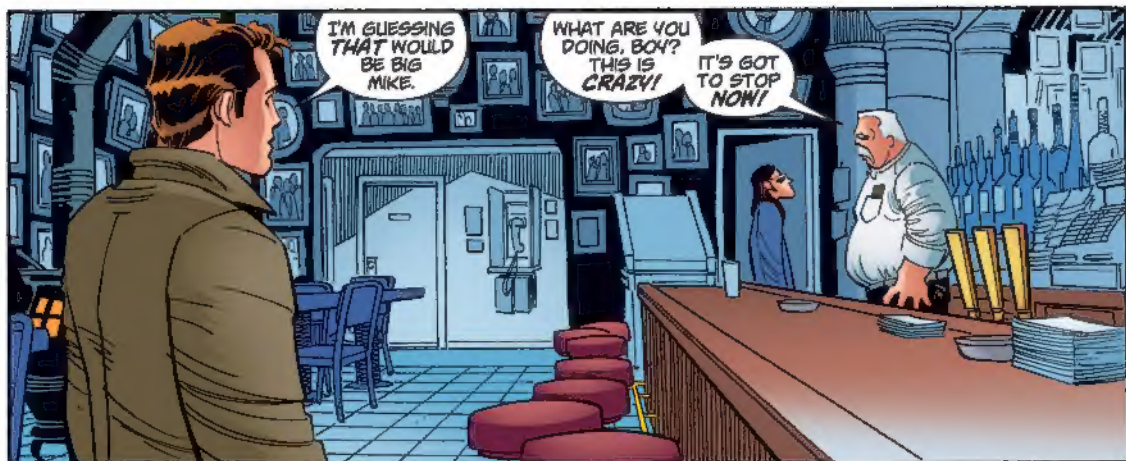
MAKES ME REALIZE I REALLY NEVER DID KNOW HIM.

NOT AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A CHARACTER FROM THE OLD FAMILY STORIES.

NOT AS A MAN.
GOT TO CHANGE THAT.







I'M GUESSING THAT WOULD BE BIG MIKE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BOY? THIS IS CRAZY!

IT'S GOT TO STOP NOW!



THEY'RE ALL FRIENDS OF MINE AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU —

CAN I HELP YOU?



I THINK SO. ARE YOU MR. CALLAHAN?

UH-HUH. DO I KNOW YOU?

NO, SIR, BUT I THINK YOU KNEW MY FATHER AND I —



I DON'T THINK WE'RE DONE HERE, DAD. DO YOU REALLY HAVE TIME FOR —



SWEET MARY!

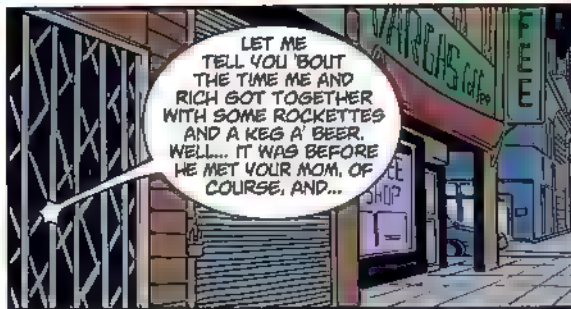
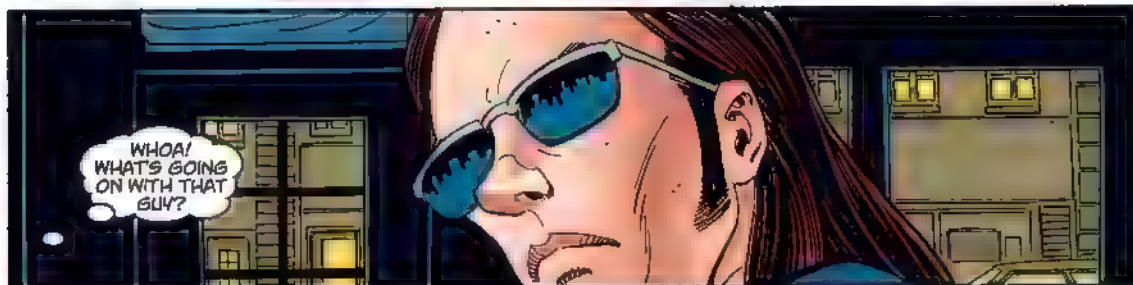
IT CAN'T BE?

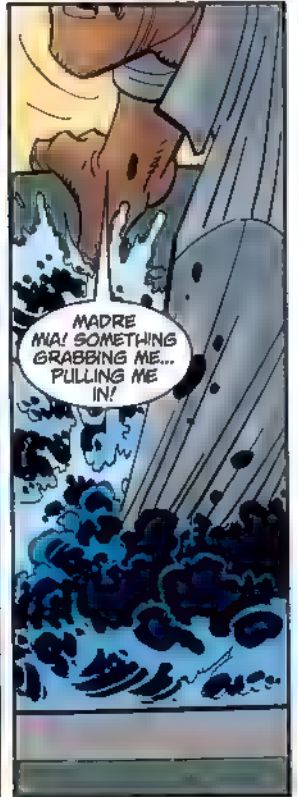
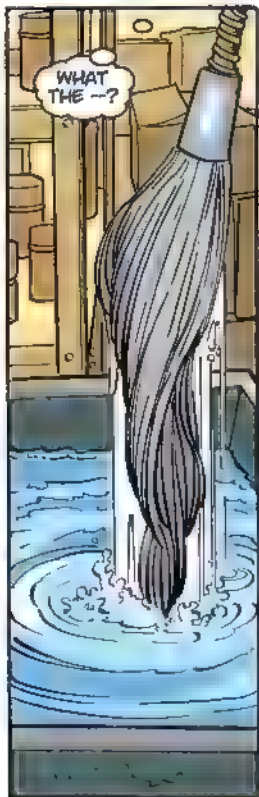
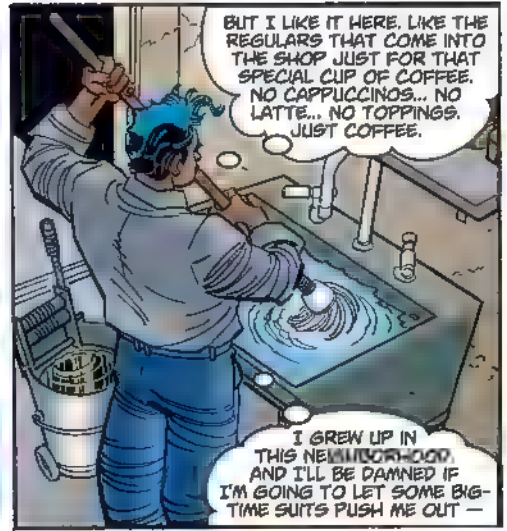
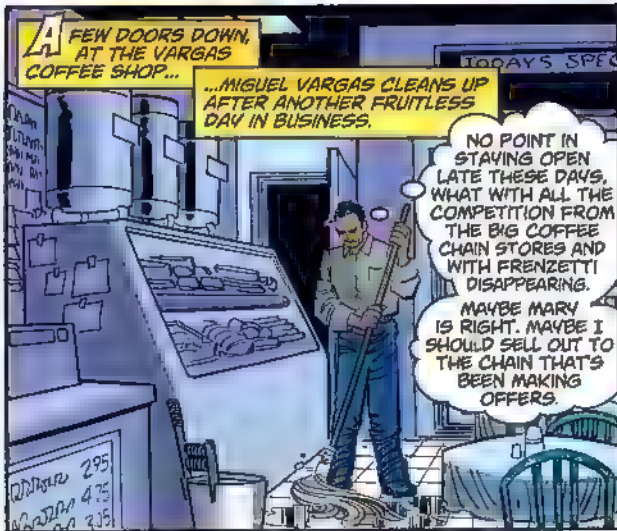
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT THE MINUTE I LAID EYES ON YOU! IT'S LIKE I'M LOOKING AT HIS TWIN!

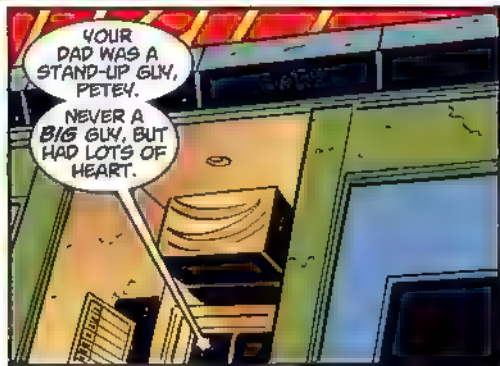
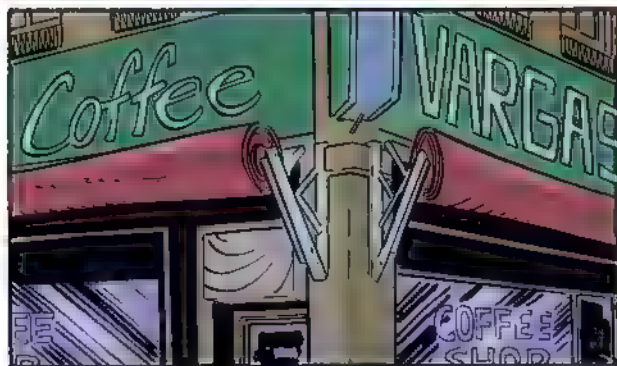
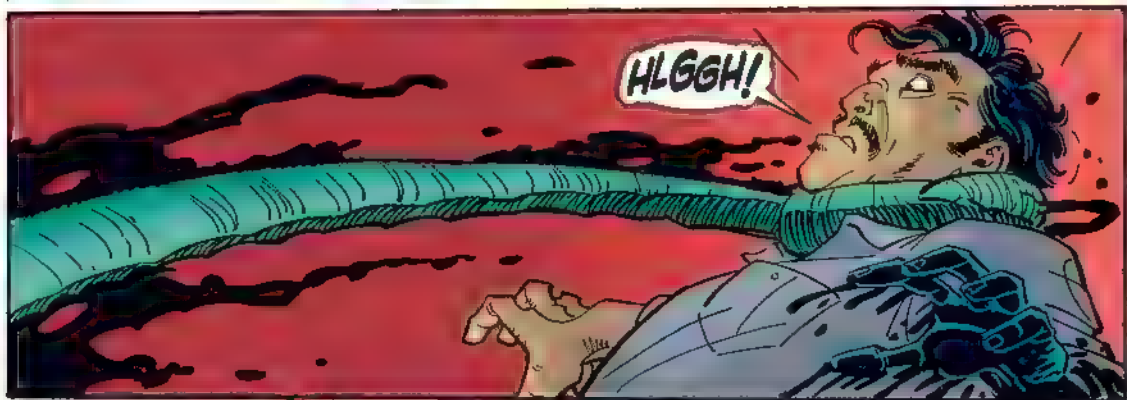
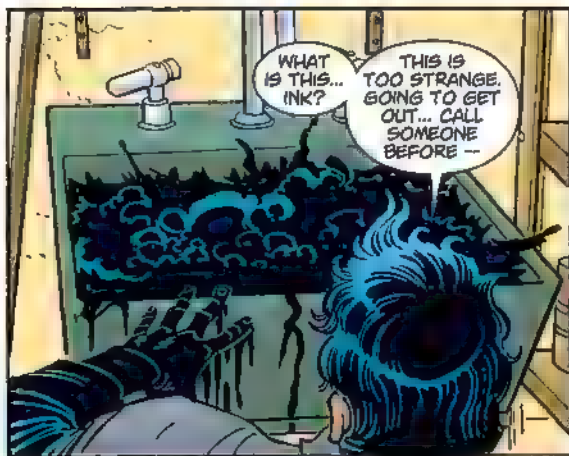


RICH PARKER'S KID!

GEEZ! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU WERE IN DIAPERS, KID!



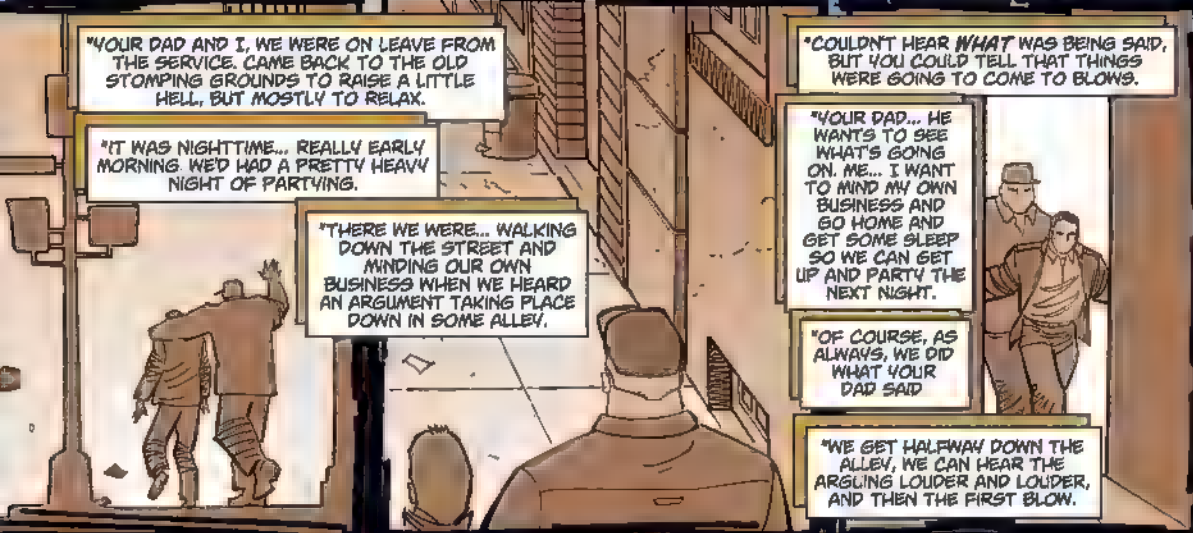






YOU WANT TO KNOW THE KIND OF MAN YOUR DAD WAS, KID?

I'LL GIVE YOU A PRIME EXAMPLE. IT GOES BACK MORE YEARS THAN I CAN REMEMBER.



"YOUR DAD AND I, WE WERE ON LEAVE FROM THE SERVICE. CAME BACK TO THE OLD STOMPING GROUNDS TO RAISE A LITTLE HELL, BUT MOSTLY TO RELAX.

"IT WAS NIGHTTIME... REALLY EARLY MORNING. WE'D HAD A PRETTY HEAVY NIGHT OF PARTYING.

"THERE WE WERE... WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS WHEN WE HEARD AN ARGUMENT TAKING PLACE DOWN IN SOME ALLEY.

"COULDN'T HEAR WHAT WAS BEING SAID, BUT YOU COULD TELL THAT THINGS WERE GOING TO COME TO BLOWS.

"YOUR DAD... HE WANTS TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON. ME... I WANT TO MIND MY OWN BUSINESS AND GO HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP SO WE CAN GET UP AND PARTY THE NEXT NIGHT.

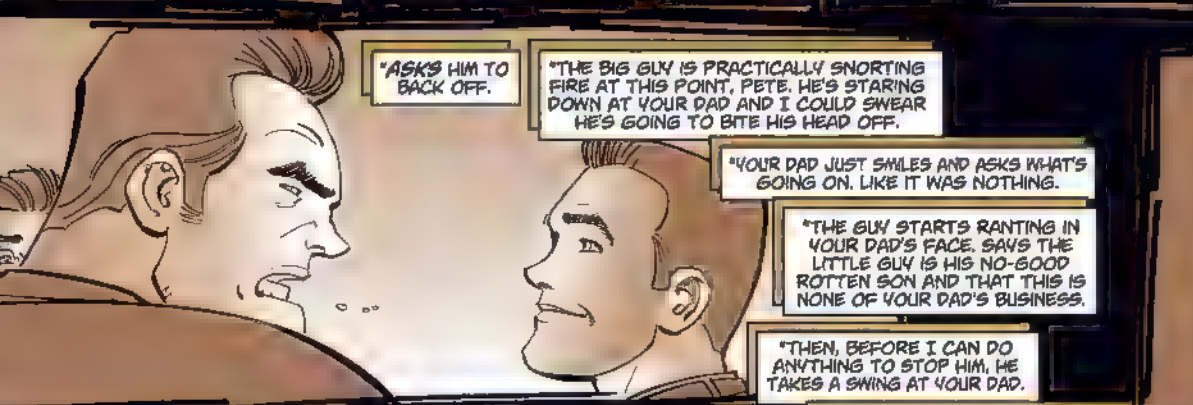
"OF COURSE, AS ALWAYS, WE DID WHAT YOUR DAD SAID

"WE GET HALFWAY DOWN THE ALLEY, WE CAN HEAR THE ARGUING LOUDER AND LOUDER, AND THEN THE FIRST BLOW.



"THERE WAS THE BIGGEST GUY I EVER SAW GETTING READY TO BEAT THE HECK OUT OF A LITTLE GUY. THIS GUY WAS HUGE, PETE... I KID YOU NOT! BIGGER THAN ME!

"YOUR DAD... HE NEVER COULD STAND A BULLY... SO HE WALKS RIGHT UP AND GETS IN THIS MOUNTAIN'S FACE.



"ASKS HIM TO BACK OFF.

"THE BIG GUY IS PRACTICALLY SNORTING FIRE AT THIS POINT, PETE. HE'S STARING DOWN AT YOUR DAD AND I COULD SWEAR HE'S GOING TO BITE HIS HEAD OFF.

"YOUR DAD JUST SMILES AND ASKS WHAT'S GOING ON. LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.

"THE GUY STARTS RANTING IN YOUR DAD'S FACE. SAYS THE LITTLE GUY IS HIS NO-GOOD ROTTEN SON AND THAT THIS IS NONE OF YOUR DAD'S BUSINESS.

"THEN, BEFORE I CAN DO ANYTHING TO STOP HIM, HE TAKES A SWING AT YOUR DAD.

"AND THEN I WATCHED THE MOST AMAZING THING I EVER SAW.



"YOUR DAD... WHO WAS PRETTY GOOD IN A SCRAP FOR A LITTLE GUY... TAKES THE PUNCH.

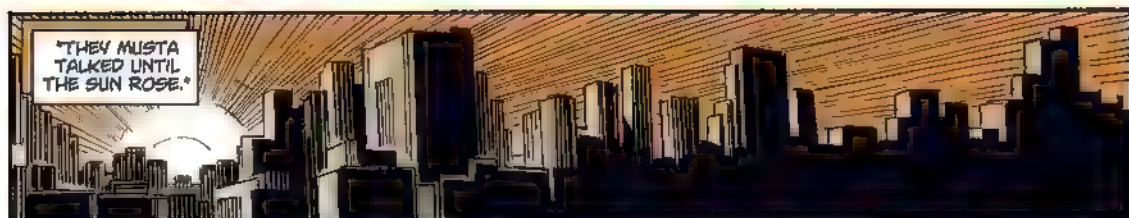
"HE WAS HURT, STAGGERED BACK, BUT HE DIDN'T TAKE A SHOT AT THE GUY. YOUR DAD KNEW A THING OR TWO, PETE. I'M SURE HE COULD'VE TAKEN THE BIG GUY OUT, BUT HE DIDN'T. INSTEAD...

"THE GUY DROPPED HIS HANDS..."

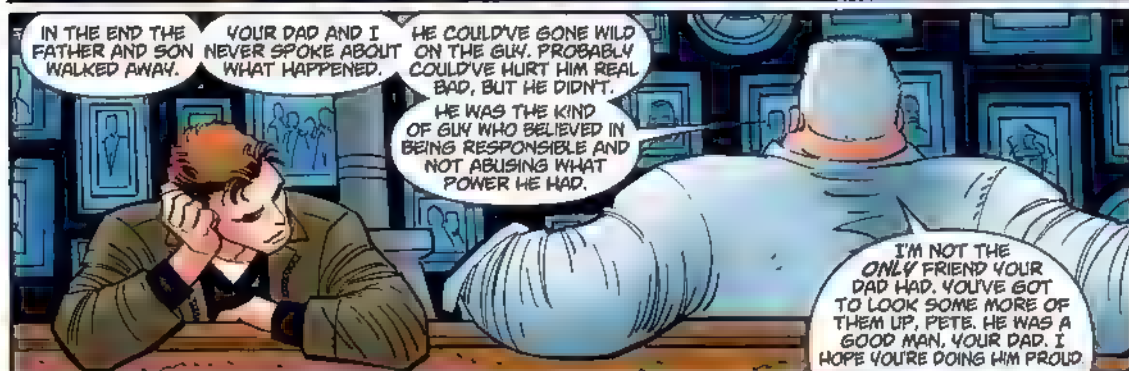
"IT WAS A PRETTY GOOD BLOW, TOO... BUT YOUR DAD JUST SUCKS IT UP.

"I WANTED TO JUMP IN, BUT RICH STOPPED ME WITH A LOOK.

"HE LOOKED UP AT HIM AND ASKED, 'YOU THINK YOUR SON COULD'VE TAKEN THAT ONE? HOW WOULD THAT HAVE MADE YOU FEEL? FEEL LIKE TALKING NOW?'



"THEY MUSTA
TALKED UNTIL
THE SUN ROSE."

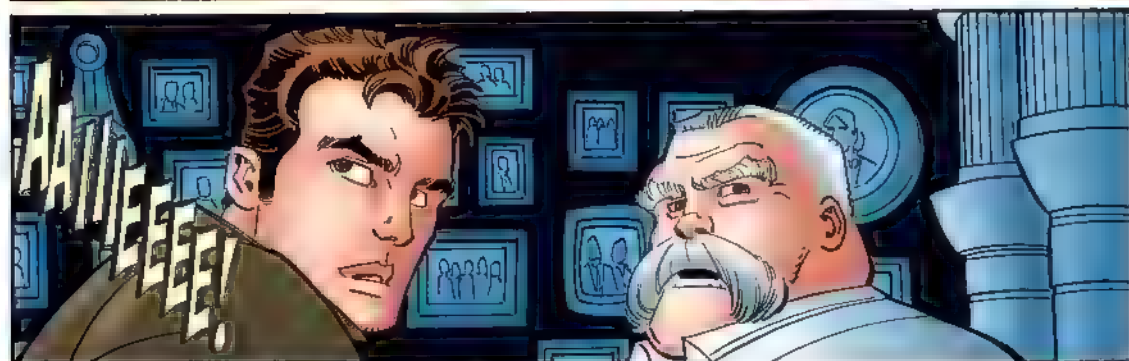


IN THE END THE
FATHER AND SON
WALKED AWAY.

YOUR DAD AND I
NEVER SPOKE ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED.

HE COULD'VE GONE WILD
ON THE GUY. PROBABLY
COULD'VE HURT HIM REAL
BAD, BUT HE DIDN'T.
HE WAS THE KIND
OF GUY WHO BELIEVED IN
BEING RESPONSIBLE AND
NOT ABUSING WHAT
POWER HE HAD.

I'M NOT THE
ONLY FRIEND YOUR
DAD HAD. YOU'VE GOT
TO LOOK SOME MORE OF
THEM UP, PETE. HE WAS A
GOOD MAN, YOUR DAD. I
HOPE YOU'RE DOING HIM PROUD



PETE, YOU
STAY HERE. DO
NOT COME OUTSIDE
NO MATTER WHAT
YOU HEAR!

I GOT TO
TAKE CARE OF
SOMETHING.
I'LL BE BACK
WHEN I CAN.

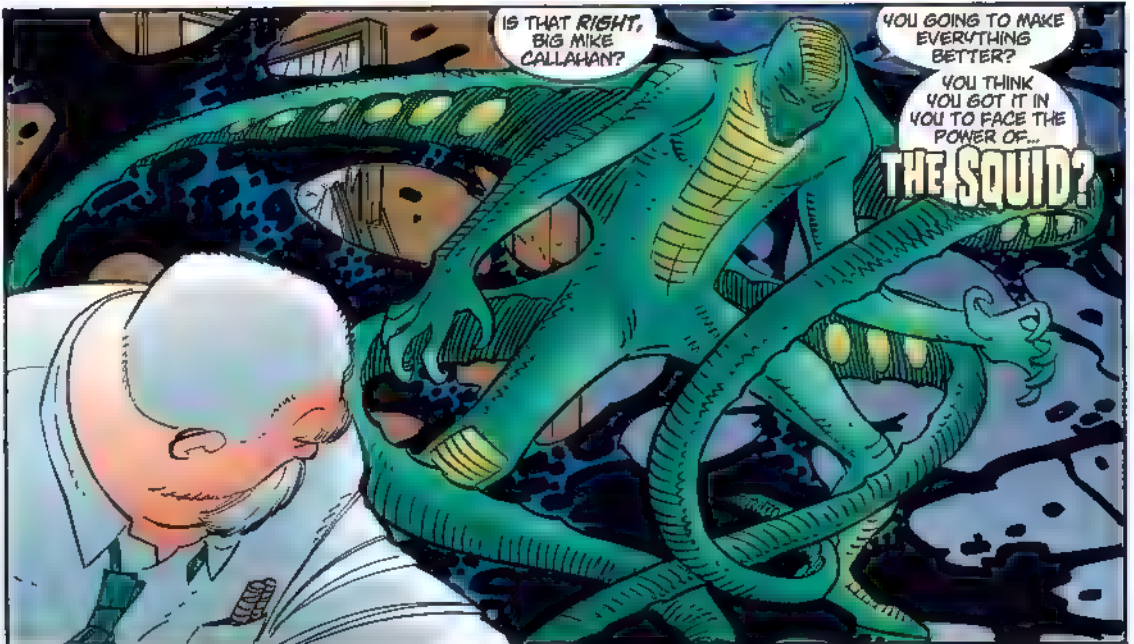
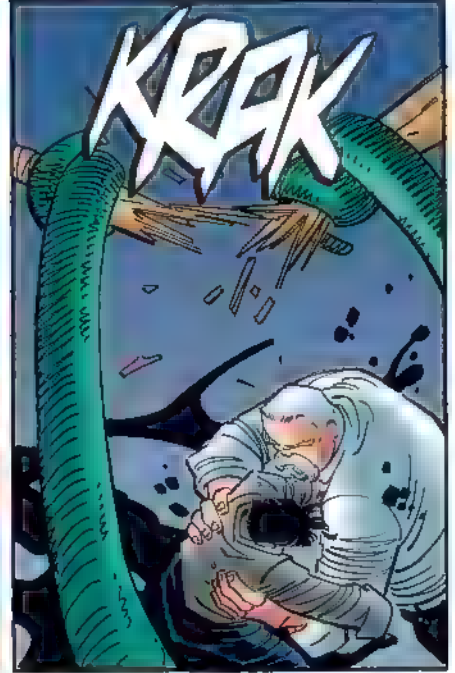
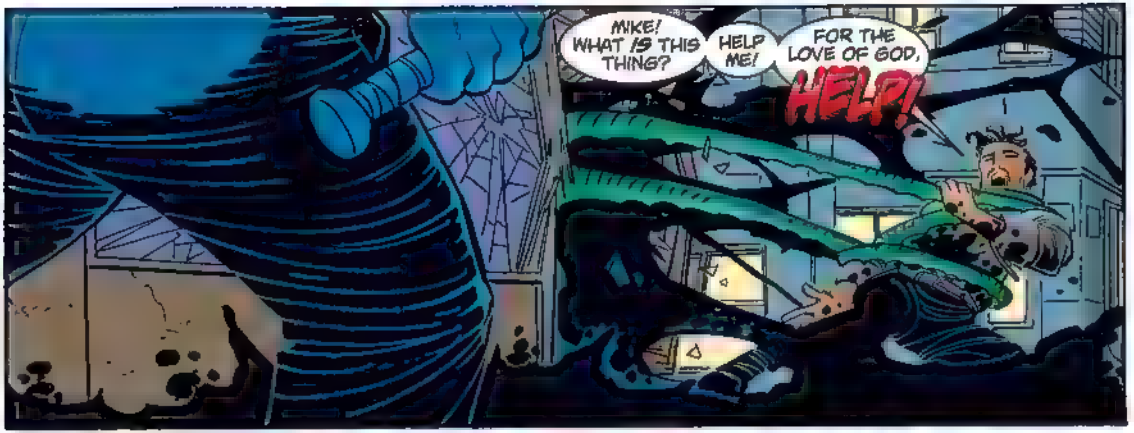


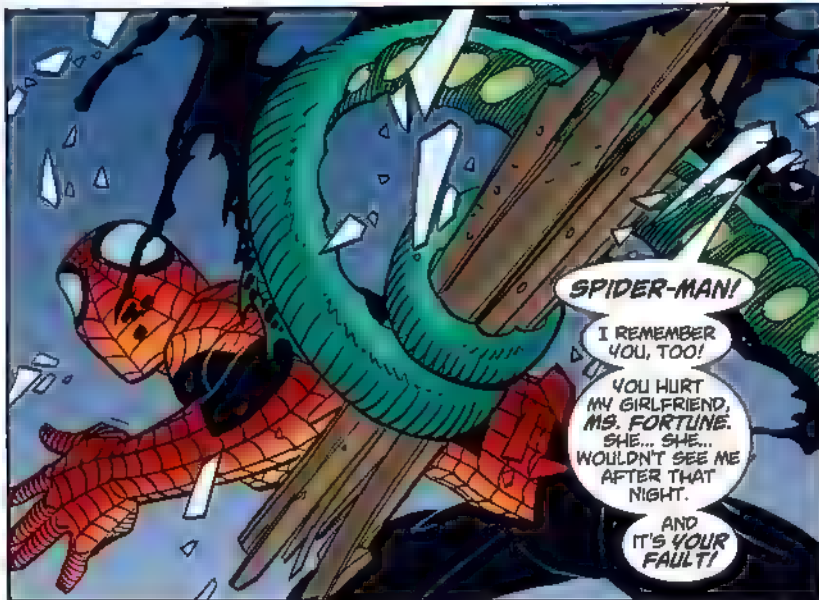
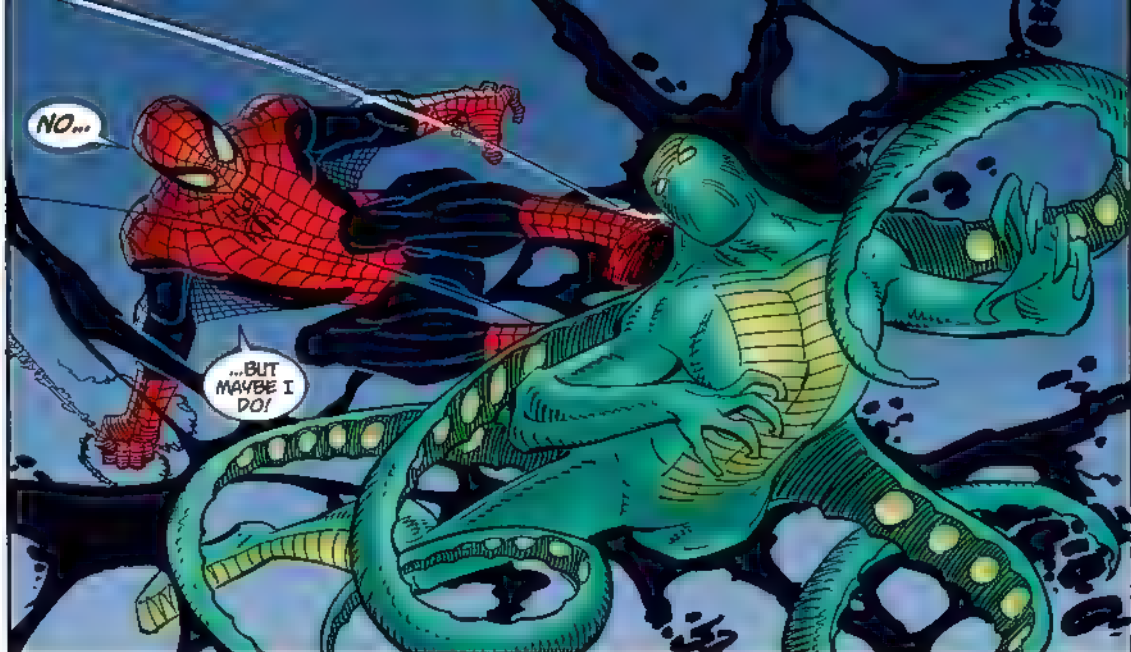
SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING
WILD AGAIN. THIS IS
NOT SOMETHING
BIG MIKE CAN TAKE
CARE OF ON HIS
OWN.

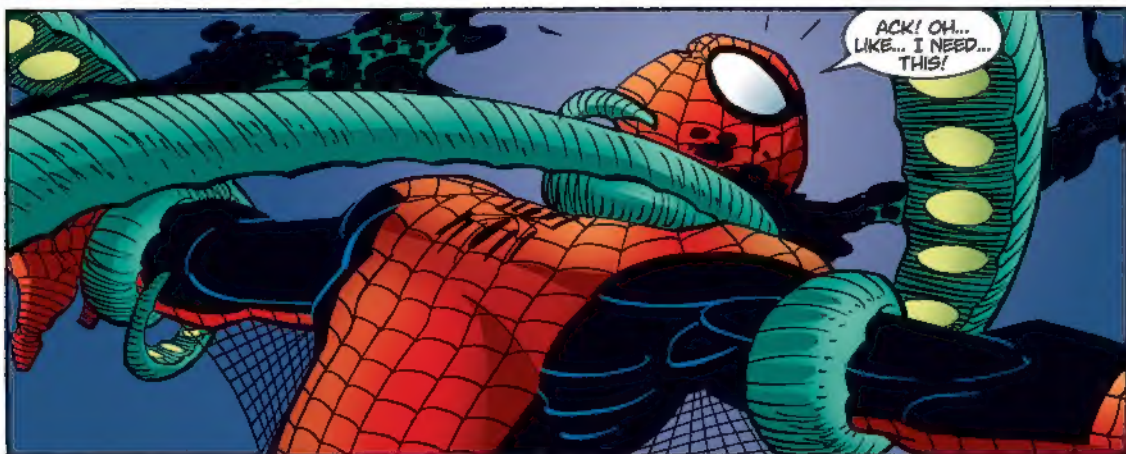
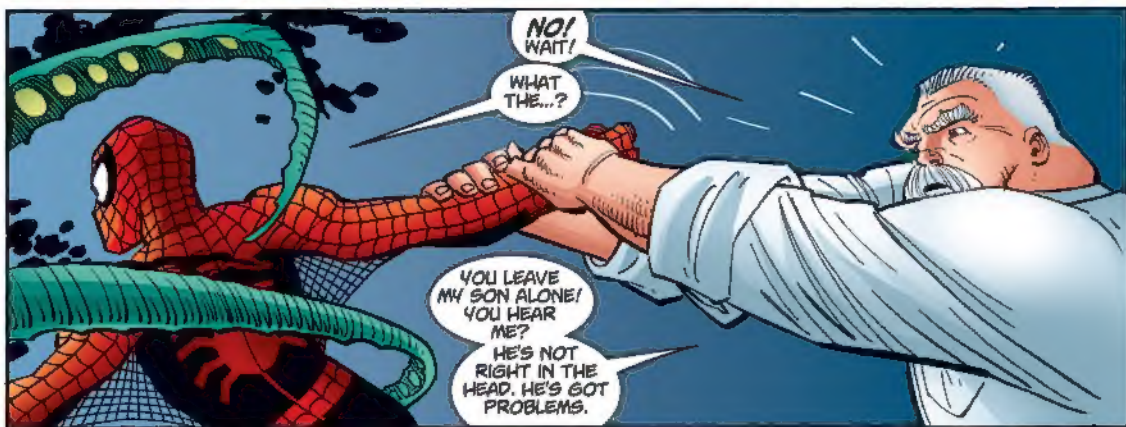


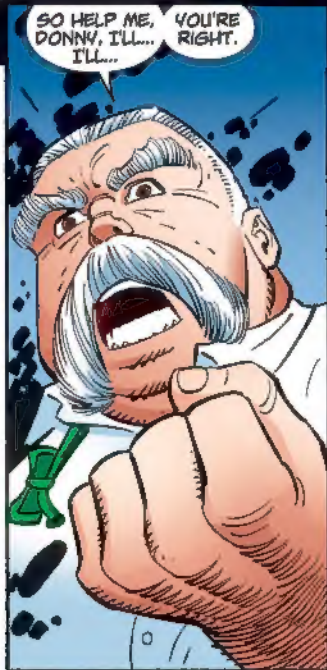
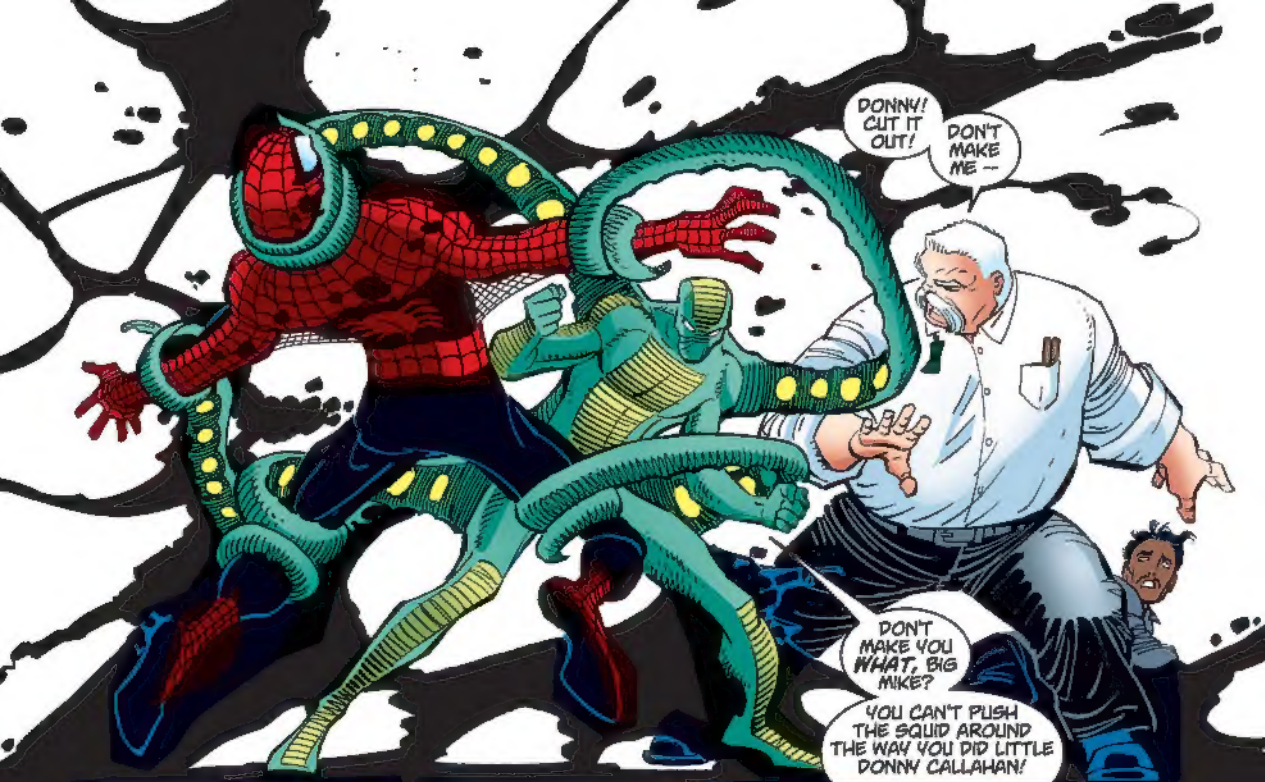
HE'S GOING TO NEED SOME
OF MY KIND OF HELP.

MIGUEL!
IS THAT YOU,
MAN?









SO HELP ME, DONNY, I'LL... YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL...



GUESS I'VE JUST BEEN HANDLING IT WRONG ALL THESE YEARS AND NEVER COULD SEE IT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE, DONNY. I'VE TRIED MY BEST.



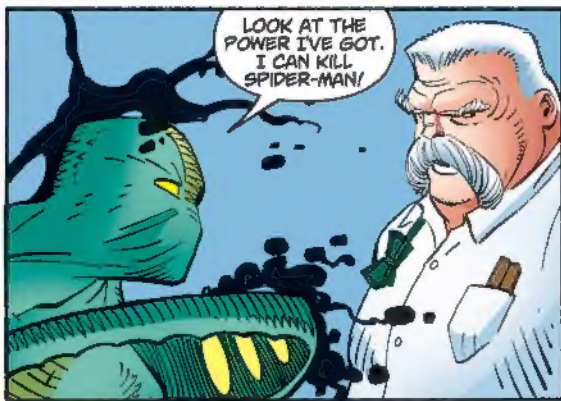
TRIED TO BE A GOOD FATHER AFTER YOUR MOM DIED, BUT I JUST DIDN'T DO A GOOD ENOUGH JOB, I GUESS.

YOU ALWAYS FELL IN WITH THE WRONG CROWD. ALWAYS LET YOURSELF BE LED. STREET GANGS AND NOW...

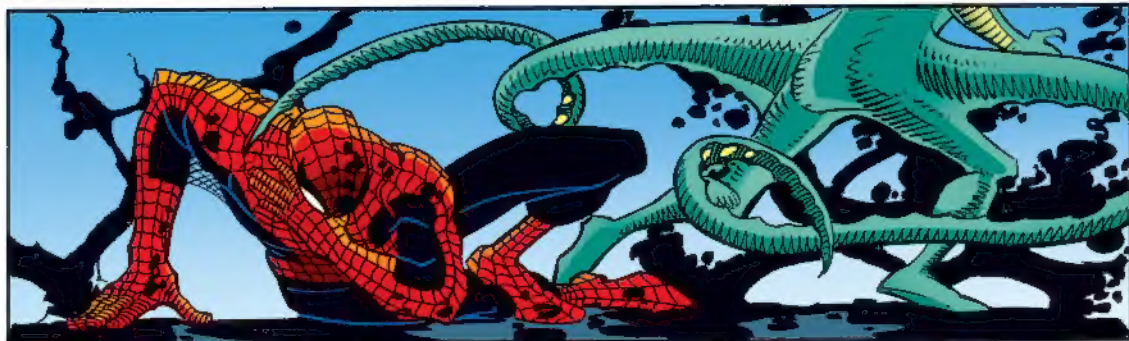
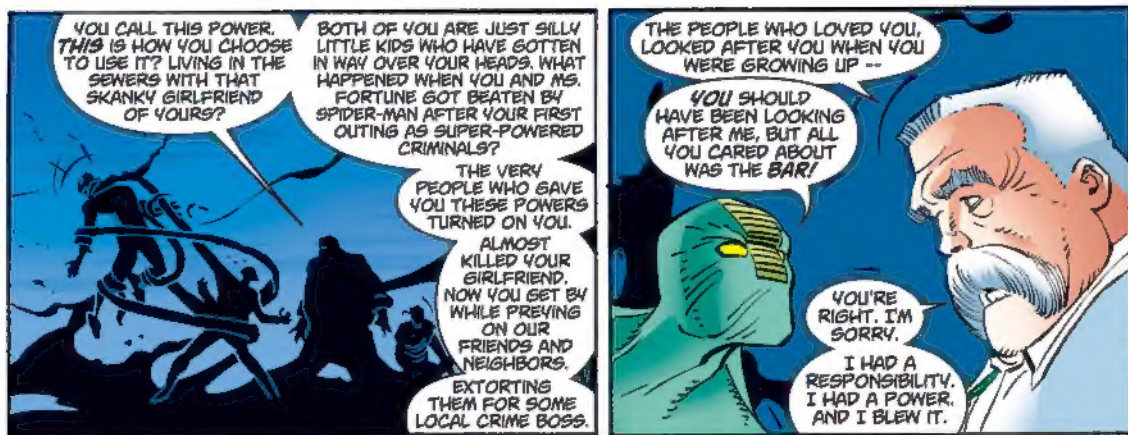
...THIS WHATEVER IT IS YOU'VE BECOME. WHY DID YOU LET THEM DO THIS TO YOU, DONNY?

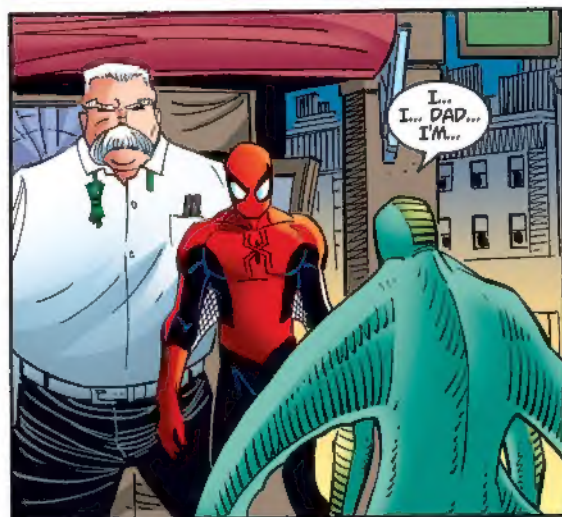
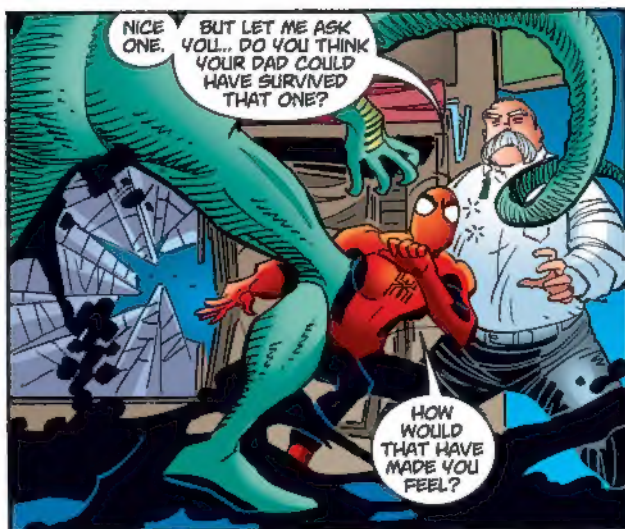


LAURA IS MY GIRLFRIEND. SHE SAID WE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE PUSHED AROUND ANYMORE. NOT BY OUR PARENTS... NOT BY ANYONE!



LOOK AT THE POWER I'VE GOT. I CAN KILL SPIDER-MAN!





AND SPIDER-MAN BEGINS TO TALK.

LATE INTO THE NIGHT.

UNTIL THE SUN RISES THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

